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## NEWS RELEASE

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# Zabner Professional License Revoked

*~ Board sanctions convicted Powhatan optician ~*

**RICHMOND** – Today the Virginia Board for Opticians revoked the license of Gary M. Zabner of Midlothian. Bypassing the lengthy administrative hearing process, the Board initiated proceedings to sanction Zabner through a voluntary consent order in which he loses his license and forfeits any further appeals.

Following Zabner's conviction in March of taking indecent liberties with a child, the Board found he violated its regulations by "displaying professional incompetence or negligence."

"Professional licensure is a privilege, meant to protect consumers from harm," said Board spokesperson Mary Broz. "The Board takes seriously its responsibility to demand high standards of conduct."

"Mr. Zabner violated the public trust and no longer deserves the privilege of holding an opticians license," Broz concluded.

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### **About DPOR and the Board for Opticians:**

The Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) administers and enforces laws regulating 31 commercial occupations and certain professions. The agency licenses or certifies more than 265,000 individuals and businesses ranging from architects and contractors to cosmetologists and professional wrestlers.

DPOR investigates reports of regulatory violations by licensees; pursues complaints of criminal activity by unlicensed practitioners; responds to business-related consumer inquiries and requests for license checks; administers recovery funds for consumers harmed in contractor or real estate transactions; and conducts mediation services and public awareness campaigns.

The Board for Opticians regulates 1,850 individuals who fit and sell prescription glasses and contact lenses. The Board is composed of three licensed opticians, one ophthalmologist, and one citizen member.

For more information, visit DPOR online at [www.dpor.virginia.gov](http://www.dpor.virginia.gov).